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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF AUGUST 1958

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. August output in the Geographic Research Area reflected the normal late-summer upswing. A number of self-initiated projects were completed and disseminated during the month. Special support was provided to OCI and other components on Soviet geography and military programs. Major attention continued to be given to the guidance of mapping intelligence procurement and to the support of operational planning.

2. The Cartography Division completed 138 maps and charts -- 127 for the Agency and 11 for the Department of State. Requests were accepted for 116 maps and charts -- 112 for the Agency and 4 for the Department of State.

3. The Geography Division completed one Geographic Intelligence Review (MR-55); one Geographic Intelligence Report (G-22, Noril'sk); one Geographic Intelligence Memorandum (GM-9, Resistance in Tibet); one NIS Chapter IX on Cyprus; one contribution to the NIS Chapter I Annual on Denmark; and four geographic memoranda in the G/E and G/I series, one of which (G/I-259), was a self-initiated contribution to NIE 11-4-58, Main Trends in Soviet Capabilities and Policies, 1958-1963.

4. The Map Library Division received 4,602 foreign-published maps during August. Of these, 33% were retained in CIA, 33% sent to AMS, and 26% to the Library of Congress. A total of 21,388 map sheets were sent out in response to 1,333 requests; in addition, 264 items were distributed in response to 97 requests for related geographic and cartographic materials. Requirements for maps of the Middle East continued high during the month and requests for materials on the Formosa Strait area were heavy.

5. The GRA City Plan project progressed well during the month. D/GC's pilot map of the first city, Alma Ata, is presently in reproduction; a plan of Stalinabad will be ready for reproduction in September. Compilation of additional data for these and subsequent cities continues to be carried forward by the Geography Division. Acting Chief/G briefed visiting Air Force personnel regarding the project in the latter part of the month.

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6. [REDACTED] of the Geography Division delivered a 40-minute briefing for the DCI on the subject of expanded Soviet plans in Antarctica.

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7. At the request of the Control Staff, ORR, conferences were held with S/COM and S/TR on the initiation of a joint project related to missile-associated activities in the Arctic.

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9. At a meeting held on 29 August 1958, the NIS Chapter IX Subcommittee agreed to submit proposals to the NIS Committee that either the number of Chapters IX be reduced from 8 to 7 per year, or that the Section 19 portion be deleted from future Chapter I Annuals. A copy has been sent to the AD/BI.

10. A meeting was held in the Map Library Division to determine the Air Force's requirements for the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Possible future collection action will depend on whether or not the Army Map Service decides to underwrite the collection costs for the photography. Other coordination actions [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and conferences with O/L, AMS, and a private firm on a proposed special project.

11. A visit by a representative of the U.S. Army Special Forces School has resulted in a formal request for D/GG to prepare a trial U/W study that incorporates features not included in material presently available to the school.

12. Twenty-eight GRA personnel attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, which has held in Santa Monica, California, from 18 to 22 August. In addition to attending the regional and general sessions, the group participated in two all-day field trips. Those personnel who traveled by government-provided aircraft considered the flight to and from Los Angeles among the most valuable features of the trip.

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13. [REDACTED] of the Geography Division and [REDACTED] of the Cartography Division received commendations from the NIS Committee for their outstanding contributions to the NIS program. This was part of a newly initiated program of annual commendations to be given by the NIS Committee.

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14. In the absence of Chief/G, [REDACTED] served as Acting Chief of the Geographic Research Area during the month.

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